

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5566

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP IS XG BE PINR EEC
SUBJ: BIO DATA: ITZHAK MINERBI - ISRAEL'S AMB DESIGNATE TO
BELGIUM AND THE EEC

REF.: TEL AVIV 5428

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION, ITSHAK MINERBI, DIRECTOR OF THE MFA'S EUROPE I DIVISION, CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT HE HAD BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE NEXT AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND TO THE EEC AND THAT HE EXPECTS TO BE LEAVING AT THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER. AMBASSADOR MINERBI KNOWS BELGIUM AND EEC AFFAIRS WELL, HAVING SERVED FROM 1963-1967 AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE ISRAELI MISSION TO THE COMMON MARKET. MINERBI AT TIMES COMES ON AS A RATHER SHARP DEFENDANT OF ISRAEL'S FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH OCCASIONALLY MAY GRATE ON FOREIGNERS. HOWEVER, HE CAN ALSO BE VERY WITTY AND CHARMING.

2. HE HOLDS DEGREES IN HISTORY, ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME, HEBREW UNIVERSITY AND A DOCTORATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS, AND HAS PUBLISHED A NUMBER OF BOOKS AND ARTICLES -
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SEVERAL OF THEM ABOUT COMMON MARKET AFFAIRS. EMBOFF KNEW HIM WHEN HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO IVORY COAST. AT THAT TIME HE WAS POPULAR WITH IVORIANS AND MOST MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND HAD READY ACCESS TO PRESIDENT HOUPHUET BOIGNY. HOWEVER, HIS RELATIONS WITH U S AMBASSADORS AND FOREIGN MINISTER USHER WERE SOMEWHAT STRAINED AS A RESULT OF HIS OCCASIONAL BLUNTNESS.

3. UPON HIS RETURN FROM IVORY COAST HE HELD SECONDARY POSITIONS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DEALING WITH TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRY AFFAIRS; IN 1976 HE WAS ASSIGNED AS DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES DIVISION AND IN 1977 HE BECAME DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPE I DIVISION WHICH INCLUDES ALL WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES EXCEPT GREAT BRITAIN AND SCANDINAVIA. WITH DAYAN'S APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER HIS ROLE AND IMPORTANCE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE BEEN ON THE ASCENDENCY. HE HAS ACCOMPANIED THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON MOST OF HIS RECENT EUROPEAN TRIPS AND REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN PUSHING FOR MORE RELAXED RELATIONS WITH THE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES.

4. MINERBI WAS BORN IN ROME IN 1929 AND CAME TO ISRAEL IN 1947. HE IS MARRIED TO HANNA WERTHEIMER AND HAS THREE DAUGHTERS. HE JOINED THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1963. PRIOR TO HIS FOREIGN SERVICE HE WAS EDITOR OF SEVERAL ISRAELI PUBLICATIONS AND WENT ABROAD ON SEVERAL JEWISH AGENCY ASSIGNMENTS. IN RECENT YEARS HE HAS ALSO BEEN A SENIOR LECTURER IN ECONOMICS AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY. VIETS

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